

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A blade driving device for use in cameras, the blade driving device comprising:

a mechanical blade openably and closably disposed in front of an image pickup element, the mechanical blade being operable to block a part or all of light passing through an exposure aperture or to reduce light passing therethrough;

an electromagnetic actuator being operable to enable the blade to perform an opening motion according to opening energization and to enable the blade to perform a closing motion according to closing energization; and

a control means for drive-controlling the electromagnetic actuator and applying opening energization and closing energization to the electromagnetic actuator so as to allow the blade to perform an opening motion ~~before performing a closing motion in~~ by turning on an electric power supply to move into an opened state in a photographable standby state in which a dynamic image and a still image can be photographed, and to perform an opening motion when a releasing operation is performed, and then to perform a closing motion for completion of a photograph the blade is to be kept in an opened state.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the blade is a shutter blade that opens and closes the aperture.

4. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the blade is a diaphragm blade that stops down the aperture to a predetermined aperture diameter.

5. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 1,

wherein the blade is an ND filter blade that reduces an amount of light passing through the aperture to a predetermined level.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A blade driving device for use in cameras, the blade driving device comprising:

a mechanical blade openably and closably disposed in front of an image pickup element, the mechanical blade being operable to block a part or all of light passing through an exposure aperture or to reduce light passing therethrough;

an electromagnetic actuator being operable to enable the blade to perform an opening motion according to opening energization and to enable the blade to perform a closing motion according to closing energization; and

a control means for drive-controlling the electromagnetic actuator and applying opening energization and closing energization to the electromagnetic actuator so as to allow the blade to perform an opening motion by turning on an electric power supply to move into an opened state in a photographable standby state in which a dynamic image and a still image can be photographed, and to perform an opening motion before performing a closing motion when an amount of light incident on the image pickup element becomes equal to or less than a predetermined level in a the photographable standby state, and then to perform a closing motion for completion of a photograph by a releasing operation in which the blade is to be kept in an opened state.

7. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the blade is a shutter blade that opens and closes the aperture.

8. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the blade is a diaphragm blade that stops down the aperture to a predetermined aperture diameter.

9. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the blade is an ND filter blade that reduces an amount of light passing through the aperture to a predetermined level.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A blade driving device for use in cameras, the blade driving device comprising:

a mechanical blade openably and closably disposed in front of an image pickup element, the mechanical blade being operable to block a part or all of light passing through an exposure aperture or to reduce light passing therethrough;

an electromagnetic actuator operable to enable the blade to perform an opening motion according to opening energization and to enable the blade to perform a closing motion according to closing energization; and

a control means for drive-controlling the electromagnetic actuator and applying opening energization and closing energization to the electromagnetic actuator so as to allow the blade to perform an opening motion by turning on an electric power supply to move into an opened state in a photographable standby state in which a dynamic image and a still image can be photographed, and to perform an opening motion before performing a closing motion when a signal exceeding a predetermined level is output from a shock sensor used to detect an impulsive force in a the photographable standby state, and then to perform a closing motion for completion of a photograph by a releasing operation in which the blade is to be kept in an opened state.

11. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the blade is a shutter blade that opens and closes the aperture.

12. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the blade is a diaphragm blade that stops down the aperture to a predetermined aperture diameter.

13. **(Original)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the blade is an ND filter blade that reduces an amount of light passing through the aperture to a predetermined level.